

III. REMARKS

This amendment is being submitted in response to the non-final Office Action mailed on December 01, 2004. In this Office Action, claims 1, 4-10, 12 and 13 of the above-referenced application are pending and claims 1, 4-10, 12 and 13 stand as rejected by the Patent Office. In response to this Office Action, claims 1, 4-10, 12 and 13 have been canceled and new claims 20-40 have been added. The claims added herein are consistent with the application as originally filed and no new matter has been added. The Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the new claims.

Claim Objections

The Patent Office's objection to claims 7 and 12 (page 2 of the Office Action) are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 7 and 12, making further discussion of these claim objections unnecessary.

35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Patent Office's rejection of claims 7 and 12-13 (page 2 of the Office Action) under § 112 are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 7 and 12-13, making further discussion of these claim rejections unnecessary.

35 U.S.C. § 102(b)/(e)

On pages 3-7 of the Office Action of December 30, 2004, the Patent Office indicated that claims 1, 4, 7, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or (e) as being anticipated by Lyon (U.S. Pat. No. 4,021,354), Arai (U.S. Pat. No. 4,904,378), Fuehrer et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,458,303), Sauriol et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 3,920,347) and/or Schmid (U.S. Pat. No. 2,689,017), Harrington (U.S. Pat. No. 1,349,508) and De Lime (U.S. Pat. No. 267,065). The Patent Office's rejection of claims 1, 4, 7, and 8 is rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims, making further discussion thereof unnecessary. Regardless, the Applicant wishes to emphasize that none of the references cited in the Office Action includes a removable bucket insert for use in a cleaning system, nor do these references teach a filter that includes the aspects of the bucket insert claimed in new claims 20, 29, and 34. Thus, the applicant believes new claims 20-40 define patentably over the cited references.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

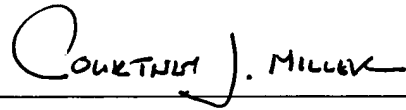
On pages 7-10 of the Office Action of December 30, 2004, the Patent Office indicated that claims 5-7, 8-10, 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Walker (U.S. Pat. No. 2,358,750) or Schmid in view of Walker; Lyon in view of Fox (U.S. Pat. No. 865,691); De Lime in view of Fox; De Lime; Sauriol in view of Harris et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,808,623) or Schmid in view of Harris; and Sauriol in view of Harris or Schmid in view of Harris and further in view of Walker.

The Patent Office's rejection of claims 5-7, 8-10, 12-13 is rendered moot by the cancellation of these claims, making further discussion thereof unnecessary. Regardless, the Applicant wishes to emphasize that because none of the references cited in the Office Action teaches a cleaning system and/or a removable bucket insert for use in a cleaning system, nor do these references teach a filter that includes the aspects of the bucket insert claimed in new claims 20, 29, and 34, these references do not teach or suggest all of the claim limitations as required by MPEP 2142 for a finding of obviousness. Furthermore, because none of the devices in the cited references is used for the same purpose as the Applicant's invention, i.e., cleaning applications; thus, there would be no motivation either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the references or combine their teachings to arrive at the Applicant's claimed invention (see MPEP 2142). Clearly, regarding the earlier claims, the Patent Office used hindsight in identifying a series of references that include structures that are only somewhat similar to the Applicant's claimed invention. MPEP 2142 provides that the teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and must not be based on the Applicant's disclosure. Furthermore, MPEP 2141 provides that when an Examiner is applying 35 U.S.C. § 103, the references must be viewed without the benefit of impermissible hindsight vision afforded by the claimed invention. Thus, the Applicant reminds the Patent Office that hindsight must not be used in considering new claims 20-40. The Applicant asserts that none of the cited references renders any of new claims 20-40 obvious; thus, these claims are all believed to define patentably over the cited art.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth herein, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance as the new claims are believed to define patentably over the cited references. Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "COURTNEY J. MILLER". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a stylized "J".

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